



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Director of Personnel
Director of Mental Health

At its meeting held May 24, 2005, the Board took the following action:

16

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“Probate conservatorship constitutes about one-quarter (700 cases) of the workload for the Department of Mental Health’s Public Guardian operations. The primary responsibility for probate conservators is serving the frail and vulnerable elderly who usually have no family willing or able to help with managing their finances. While having multiple health-related problems, these individuals do not ordinarily meet the criteria for involuntary mental health treatment through the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Conservatorship program. Another underserved population is the developmentally disabled who frequently do not have an adult caregiver and whose lives may be improved by probate conservatorship.

“As a result of my motion regarding this problem, in September 2004, Blue Consulting concluded a Public Guardian Special Study, and made numerous recommendations for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Public Guardian’s operations and services delivery. There is a need for the Public Guardian to establish and comply with case management standards that reflect a satisfactory level of customer services, monitoring growth in demand for services, and obtaining additional funding for staff resources.

“It is also mentioned that the decision made in the early 1990s by the Chief Administrative Officer to terminate funding for probate conservatorship services, has hindered the County’s ability to manage the high demand for services in a timely manner for those individuals who need probate conservatorship services, who do not meet the criteria for the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act.”

(Continued on Page 2)

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried (Supervisors Burke and Yaroslavsky being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to work in collaboration with:
 - The Director of Mental Health on a graduated allocation of funds for staff resources in the Public Guardian Probate Conservatorship program, starting with Fiscal Year 2005-06; and
 - The Department of Mental Health's Office of the Public Guardian, the Treasurer and Tax Collector, County Counsel, Executive Officer/Clerk of the Superior Court, and other public communication-related organizations to implement the recommendations referenced in the attached Blue Consulting's 2004 Department of Mental Health, Office of the Pubic Guardian Special Study; and
2. Instructed the Director of Personnel to work in collaboration with the Department of Mental in developing performance standards of Public Guardian personnel, to ensure that management and other staff are held accountable for delivering quality services; and
3. Instructed the Director of Mental Health to work in collaboration with the Regional Centers for the Developmentally Disabled, and County Counsel, and report back to the Board with recommendations on using probate conservatorship for the special needs of developmentally disabled with no adult caregiver.

07052405_16

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Executive Officer/Clerk of the Superior Court
Treasurer and Tax Collector